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"Our nation's veterans should not be denied the opportunity to enjoy the same health care options and choices the rest of the public enjoys simply because they receive some of their care from the VA health care system," said Campbell.

H.R. 5862 would lift IRS restrictions which prevent individuals who use the VA health care system from participating in HSAs. Frequently, veterans purchase private health insurance to cover expenses not covered by the VA, but due to current regulations in the tax code they are not able to enjoy the tax saving benefits of HSAs. Additionally, because the VA health care system does not provide family health care, beneficiaries are not able to enroll their families in the HSAs. This bill would also lift this restriction.

"Millions of Americans are enjoying the tangible benefits of Health Savings Accounts and saving for future medical expenses. This legislation will correct an oversight that was made when HSAs were first created and allow veterans the option to participate," concluded Campbell.

Since legislation was enacted in 2003 to create the HSAs, more than three million individuals have enrolled in this form of coverage which allows individuals to accumulate pretax savings for future health care expenses. Companion legislation to H.R. 5862 was introduced on July 13, 2006 by U.S. Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho), who is chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.